



Bend Police Department

Force Response Report

2020

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Introduction

“Force response by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use objectively reasonable force in carrying out their duties.

Officers must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.

The Bend Police Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use objectively reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation and a careful balancing of all interests.”

—Bend Police Department Policy 300, *Force Response*.

A law enforcement officer is authorized to respond with force in specific circumstances. An extensive investment is made to train an officer to make objectively reasonable force response decisions and to employ the appropriate level of force under a variety of scenarios. An officer typically faces numerous incidents during their career when a force response (i.e., restraining violent combatants) is appropriate. Should the level of force exceed the level considered justifiable and reasonable under the totality of the circumstances, not only the officer, but also the department and the city could be open for criminal and/or civil recourse. Law enforcement agencies around the country have come under intense public, judicial and legislative scrutiny over force response issues.

The people of the City of Bend and the State of Oregon have placed great trust in their law enforcement officers by granting officers the statutory authority to respond with force in an objectively reasonable, prudent and justifiable manner. Violating this expectation jeopardizes the ability of a police officer to effectively and efficiently perform their duties and it undermines the ability of the department to protect our community. For police officers to effectively protect themselves and the community they serve, a quality relationship must be maintained. Public and officer safety, constitutional policing and community trust are, thus, interdependent.

Force response by a police officer is a necessary part of the profession. However, no other element in this field of service elicits such heartfelt emotion and attention. The majority of police officers choose a law enforcement career to serve their communities and fellow citizens. Police officers do not wish to injure anyone intentionally or accidentally. The force response statistics that follow show Bend Police officers truly wish to uphold the mission, vision and values of the Bend Police Department.



Vision

We are progressive, innovative, community based
and acknowledge our most valued asset
is the men and women who work
at the Bend Police Department.

Mission

To protect and serve

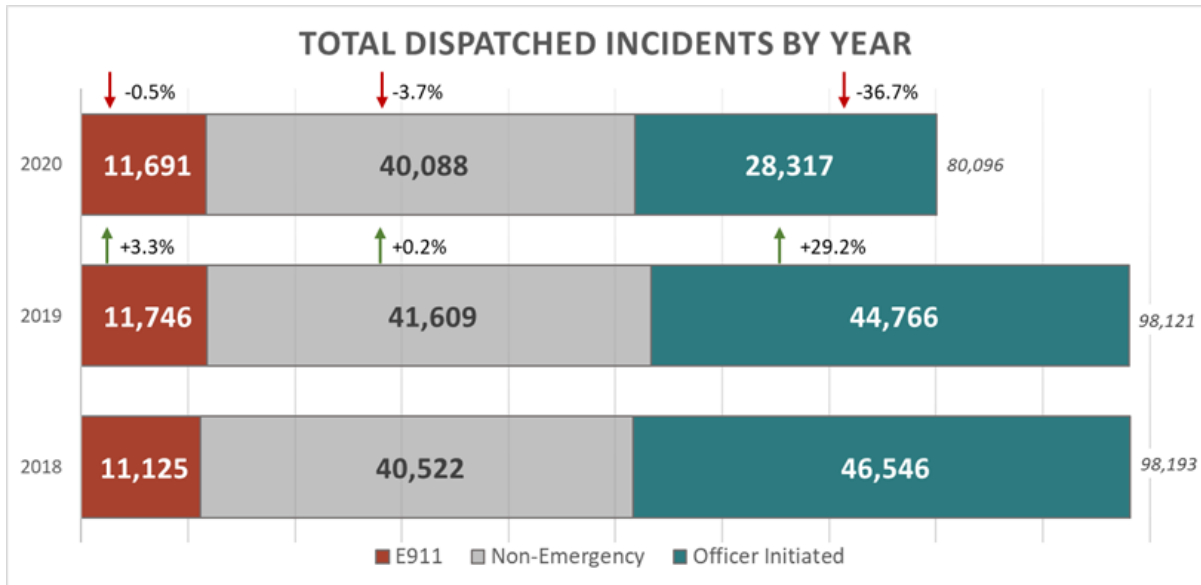
Values

Teamwork, Integrity, Excellence

Definitions. To fully understand the information in this report, the following definitions may be relevant:

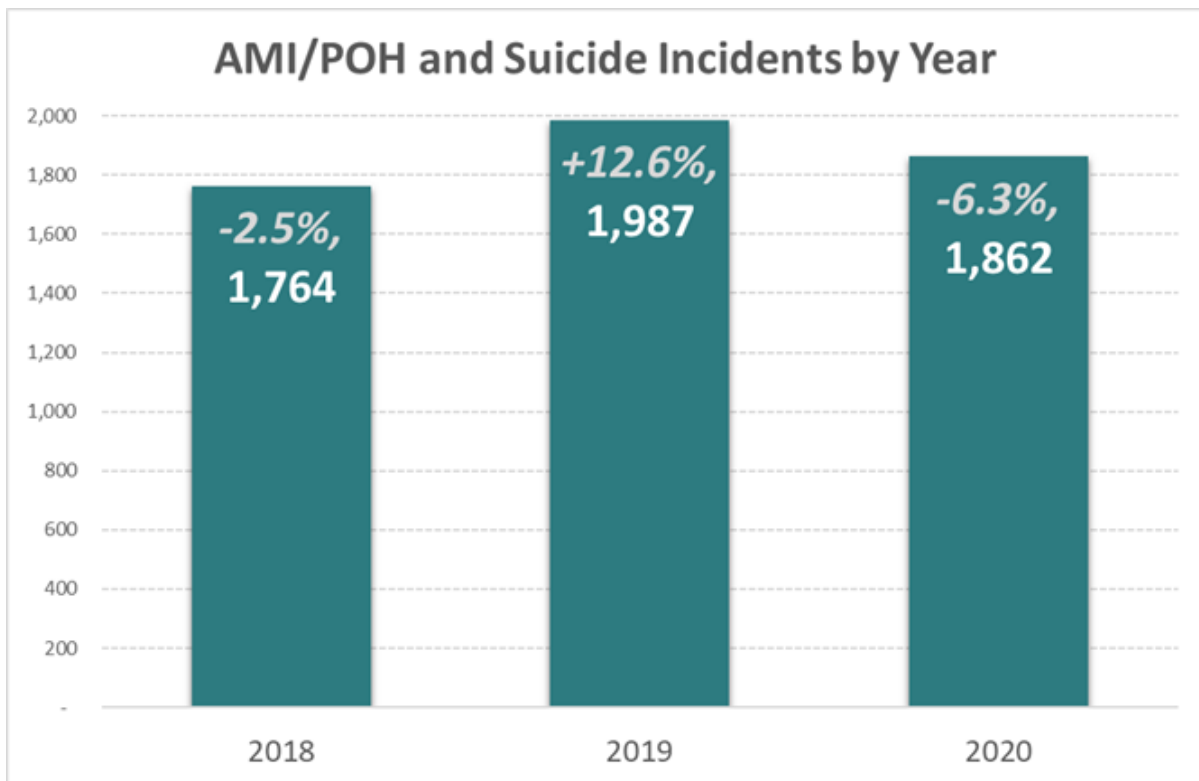
THREAT	Any person resisting arrest or being lawfully controlled, and/or demonstrating the intent, and having the means and opportunity to inflict injury, serious physical injury, or death. "Imminent threat" refers to an impending violent act or resistance that an officer objectively reasonably believes will occur, based on the totality of the circumstances.
ACTIVE RESISTANCE	The subject's verbal or physical actions are intended to prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control, but are not directed at harming the officer. Examples include: walking or running away, breaking the officer's grip.
AGGRESSIVE RESISTANCE	The subject displays the intent to harm the officer, themselves or another person and prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control. The aggression may manifest itself through a subject taking a fighting stance, punching, kicking, striking, attacks with weapons or other actions which present an imminent threat of physical harm to the officer or another.
LETHAL RESISTANCE	The subject's actions are likely to result in death or serious bodily harm to the officer, themselves or another.
OC SPRAY	A chemical irritant used as physical control to gain compliance from actively resisting Threats. OC Spray (oleoresin capsicum) is the distilled resin of various peppers in a solution carried by an aerosol propellant.
TASER	An electronic restraint device intended to stun, restrain, control, or incapacitate a person by way of delivering an electronic shock.
FOCUSED BLOWS	Strikes designed and used to distract, control, stun or incapacitate a suspect temporarily without causing severe physical injury or death. Strikes may include closed fist or open-hand punches, use of knees, elbows and/or head.
IMPACT WEAPON	Police baton, or ASP, or any other such instrument or device designed or used to block, jab, strike or temporarily restrain or control a suspect by way of physical impact or extending an officer's ability to use control holds.
LESS-LETHAL PROJECTILES	Fired from a firearm or similar device, less-lethal projectiles are designed to stun or incapacitate a suspect temporarily, without penetrating the body or causing serious physical injury or death.
PATROL CANINE (K-9)	A canine trained for and employed by specially trained law enforcement officers, the use of which includes, but may not be limited to, handler protection and location and apprehension of suspects.
PHYSICAL CONTACT	Directing a subject by touch or use of physical restraints (e.g., handcuffs) or controlling a subject with an escort hold.
PHYSICAL CONTROL	Use of chemical or organic weapons, pressure points, joint manipulation techniques or physical control holds.
SERIOUS PHYSICAL CONTROL	Use of focused blows and strikes, Taser, impact weapons, and Police Canine.
DEADLY PHYSICAL FORCE	Deadly force is that degree of force, which is likely to produce death or serious bodily injury. Deadly force can also result from a force option being improperly applied. Deadly force is not limited to the use of firearms.

Bend Police Department's Dispatched Incidents:



Calls come into the Deschutes County 911 Center and then they are dispatched to the Bend Police Department either as 911 emergencies or Non-Emergency. Officers can also self-initiate an incident (such as making a traffic stop). By looking at the graph above, you can see in 2020 the number of 911 emergencies dispatched decreased by .5%, the Non-Emergency calls decreased by 3.7% and the Officer initiated incidents decreased by 36.7%. Last year was unique in many respects, and while we see the effect from officers being directed to take a less proactive stance due to COVID (the decrease in Officer-initiated calls), the public's request for police assistance remained nearly the same as previous years.

Allegedly Mental Illness/Suicidal Incidents:



Calls for service that involve a person having a mental health crisis are entered into the system as an “AMI” call. “AMI” stands for “allegedly mentally ill”. Calls for service for which a person has threatened or demonstrated the desire to commit suicide are entered into the system as a “Suicidal”. These calls for service often involve intoxicated or impaired persons and require the officer to transport the persons to the hospital or other appropriate facility for a medical evaluation. These calls for service are resource intensive involving multiple officers due to the unpredictability of intoxicated people and people suffering from a mental crisis.

The graph above shows that the City of Bend had a jump in these calls for service from 2018 to 2019. In 2020, these calls decreased at the same rate as other calls for service. The Bend Police Department’s Crisis Response Team (CRT), a team of officers specifically trained to respond to people in mental health crisis, primarily conducts follow up work on these calls. Patrol Officers will typically handle these calls as primary officers until the situation stabilizes, and then CRT will focus on the long-term solutions for the individual.

2020 Bend Police Department Arrests

As mentioned before, 2020 was unique with the challenges of a global pandemic. As with all aspects of society, policing had to make changes in the way we approach everyday activities and public contacts. Among other things, officers were directed to minimize unnecessary interaction with the public to avoid COVID exposures. When contacts were necessary to assist the public, officers had to learn to do so with the constraints of social distancing and wearing masks.

The arrest statistics below show a correlation to the Officer-Initiated activities listed above: the number of arrests decreased by 30% from 2019 to 2020. Arrests by gender and ethnicity are captured in the second table, though the total Unique Individual arrests will not equal to the total Unique Arrests as some individuals were arrested more than one time during the year.

Totals	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Unique Arrests	3,901	3,610	3,495	3,467	3,531	4,212	4,250	2,952
<i>Unique Adult Arrests</i>	<i>3,292</i>	<i>3,112</i>	<i>3,158</i>	<i>3,129</i>	<i>3,174</i>	<i>3,868</i>	<i>3,848</i>	<i>2,738</i>
<i>Unique Juvenile Arrests</i>	<i>609</i>	<i>498</i>	<i>337</i>	<i>338</i>	<i>357</i>	<i>344</i>	<i>402</i>	<i>214</i>

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Unique Female Adult Arrests	973	944	881	883	911	1,118	1,054	710
<i>White</i>	<i>887</i>	<i>867</i>	<i>817</i>	<i>792</i>	<i>792</i>	<i>977</i>	<i>916</i>	<i>594</i>
<i>Black</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>American Indian Alaskan Native</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Asian</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Unknown</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>37</i>
Unique Male Adult Arrests	2,319	2,167	2,274	2,246	2,263	2,747	2,790	2,027
<i>White</i>	<i>2,055</i>	<i>1,888</i>	<i>2,016</i>	<i>1,982</i>	<i>1,972</i>	<i>2,304</i>	<i>2,327</i>	<i>1,653</i>
<i>Black</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>141</i>
<i>American Indian Alaskan Native</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Asian</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Unknown</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>141</i>

Bend Police Department Force Response

When assessing the department-wide force response information, several factors are considered. Most incidents involve multiple officers. Multiple officers may also use a variety of force response options while attempting to gain compliance from a single threat. A single officer may also be confronted by multiple threats at the same incident.

During 2020, reports reveal that Bend Police Department officers responded with force involving 60 people. Thus, out of 80,096 dispatched incidents, officers made an arrest in 3% of the contacts. Out of those arrests, officers were required to respond with force 2% of the time to affect the arrest.

Total Arrests and Total Force Responses

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Arrests	3486	3535	4199	4250	2952
Total Force Responses	65	68	93	76	60

By comparison, during this same period in 2019 there were 76 force responses. A force response is as an incident wherein an officer uses a level of force equal to or greater than physical control. According to Bend Police Department, Policy 300–*Use of Force*, OC Spray and takedowns are considered physical control. Changes in patrol tactics, increases in scenario based training, CIT training, officer wellness and force response legal updates have helped maintain our low force response numbers.

Force Response by Race and Gender

Force Response %	Male 2020	Female 2020
White	68.33%	15.0%
Hispanic	11.67%	0%
Black	1.67%	1.67
American Indian	1.67%	0%
Asian	0%	0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%	0%
Unknown	0%	0%

The table shows the details of race and gender of the persons who were involved in a force response incident in 2020. White males were the vast majority of persons involved in a force response, with White females being the second largest group. Some try to correlate these figures with the US Census Bureau; however, the two do not capture race and ethnicity data in the same way.

Types of Force

The next table shows the breakdown of the total force response options used during 2020. The actual Force Responses for 2020 involved 60 people, with a total of 131 force options required to gain compliance. This accounts for incidents when officers were forced to use multiple force options to take a person into custody.

The table below compares the past 5 years by **type of force option** used by Bend Police officers.

Type of Force	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pepper Spray	18	2	6	2	8
Takedowns	37	51	78	61	52
Other Force Used	4	17	20	6	18
Taser	12	9	10	11	10
Focused Blows	4	7	8	3	22
K9 Bite	1	2	3	7	3
Impact Weapon	0	0	0	0	0
Less Lethal Projectile	0	0	2	0	3
Carotid Restraint	0	0	0	0	0
Deadly Force	1	0	0	0	1
Road Block	0	0	0	0	0
Total	77	88	127	91	132

Conclusion

During 2020, slightly over 68.33% of incidents in which officers responded with force, the suspect was male and his race was white/Caucasian. Male Hispanic suspects represented 11.67% of these incidents. Black males, Black females, and Native American males represented 1.67% of these incidents while White/Caucasian females were involved in 15% of incidents.

Officers are trained to use objectively reasonable force responses based on the totality of circumstances of an event. Bend Police Department policy and current case law dictates that officers use objectively reasonable force when a force response is justified.

The results of this report show that only a small percentage of police contacts with members of the community result in a law enforcement force response. In 2018, Bend PD responded with force on 1 in 1,055 calls for service, or .09%. In 2019, those Force Response numbers

fell to 1 in 1,291 calls for service or .077%. In 2020, the number of force responses continued to decrease to 1 in 1,357 calls for service, or .073%.

- In 2020, Bend Police Department officers made **2952** arrests and responded with force on **60** individuals (2.0%).
- **49%** of all the force responses involved intoxicated, AMI or Suicidal individuals.

When a force response was applied, Bend Police Department officers typically used force that had a less likelihood of a lasting injury, such as physical control techniques. As a result, suspects were often uninjured or sustained minor injury (e.g., small bruises, abrasions or Taser-probe penetration).

While a force response is sometimes unavoidable, Bend Police officers strive to de-escalate a situation and find a peaceful resolution. **Since 2012, the Bend Police Department has focused its crisis intervention techniques toward de-escalation through a multi-modal approach. By implementing scenario-based training and Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), officers focus on creating time and distance to gain greater compliance, rather than having an event rise to the level requiring a force response. CIT techniques allow an officer to implement creative, patient and flexible responses toward crisis resolution.** These two methods are also combined with force response legal updates to provide a comprehensive response to threats.

The Bend Police Department finds that these minimal force responses are a result of our commitment to Crisis Intervention training and our progressive training efforts, which are all in alignment with the departments' vision, mission and values.